IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the following paragraphs as indicated:

[0030] As shown in the flow chart of Figure 4, the present method begins when the thermal inkjet dispenser fires a first quantity of fluid (step 400). Figure 5A illustrates how a thermal inkjet dispenser (300) similar to that shown in Figure 3B may controllably fire a first quantity of fluid. Once a computing device controllably signals the solid freeform fabrication apparatus (200; Fig. 2) to fire a quantity of fluid, heat in the TaAl layer (333) of the thermal dispenser is produced through electrical resistance heating. This heat is then transferred through the various layers ~~(330)~~ of the thermal inkjet dispenser (300) to the cavitation barrier (336) where the heat vaporizes locally contacted fluid (510). This vaporization of the fluid (510) is a result of heating the fluid to a temperature which exceeds the boiling point of the fluid thereby creating a nucleation effect. As the fluid (500) nucleates and expands, it displaces a volume of fluid (510) which is then forced out of the orifice (310) forming a quantity of fluid (530) that may be ejected towards a desired substrate (540).

[0032] As shown in Figure 5B, the first quantity of fluid (530) includes a leading head portion (532) and a tail portion (534). Typically there is a gap (550) between the tail portion (534) of an ejected quantity of fluid (530) and the head portion of a subsequently formed quantity of fluid (520). One factor that may be adjusted to aid in the subsequently formed quantity of fluid (520) "catching" the tail of a previously formed quantity of fluid (step 410~~step 430~~; Fig. 4) is the firing frequency of subsequent quantities of fluid. Essentially, the firing frequency of subsequent quantities of fluid may be adjusted in order to minimize the gap (550) created between the tail portion (534) of the ejected quantity of fluid

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(530) and the head portion of the subsequently formed quantity of fluid (520). However, the frequency of a thermal inkjet dispenser (300) is usually constrained somewhat by the need for a desired flow rate. Firing frequencies may be maximized within the range of flow rate constraint in order to facilitate continuous ligament behavior. When a thermal inkjet dispenser operates at higher firing frequencies, continuous ligament behavior is facilitated not only due to the small time between quantities of fluid but also because of chamber refill behavior at these frequencies.

[0044] Once the meniscus (810) is retracted as shown in FIG. 8B, another electrical signal causes the controllable actuator (690) to reverse its displacement causing pressure surge in the material firing chamber. As shown in FIG. 8C, the surge in the pressure within the material firing chamber causes the meniscus (810) to bulge resulting in an ejection of a quantity (830) of fluid (800) towards a desired substrate (840). The quantity (830) of fluid (800) includes a leading edge (832) and a trailing portion ~~(832)~~ (834).

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